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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **“CELEBRATING RAY BRADBURY” 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Ray Bradbury’s *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival**

**WAUKEGAN, IL** (May 25, 2017). . . The Waukegan Park District’s 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Ray Bradbury’s *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival is Saturday, June 3, 2017. The festival takes place from 11am-6pm at Bowen Park, located on the corner of Sheridan Road and Greenwood Avenue, Waukegan, IL. This grassroots festival for all ages is presented by the Waukegan Park District’s Cultural Arts Division with sponsorship support by the Waukegan Arts Council, Waukegan Historical Society, Marks Harms of Edward Jones, Uline, and Harry E. Came.

The Ray Bradbury’s *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival celebrates the beginning of summer and showcases local and regional artists and venues, champions the arts, and remembers one of Waukegan’s favorite sons, author and visionary Ray Bradbury. The festival features multiple music and entertainment stages and family activities including creative art projects that are all FREE.

This year at the festival, over 35 artists and crafters can be found on “Artist Lane” displaying their fine art and/or conducting demonstrations, providing instruction, and selling art. A tradition at the festival is the Community Art Project. This year, attendees can help create a large festival masterpiece titled “The Happiness Machine!” Activities at the Children’s Art Tent include fun projects for kids to create and take home. Waukegan High School art students showcase their talents at a section of the festival called “Young Artist Lane.”

The festival’s outdoor Pavilion Music Stage features a variety of musical bands and performers throughout the day headlined at 2:30pm by Almost Joe followed by Los Perros Cubanos at 4:30pm. The Pavilion Music Stage runs from 11am-6pm.

The indoor Acoustic Stage in the Schornick Theatre will feature a variety of talented acoustic music performers throughout the day headlined from 4 to 5pm by, “Jazzman” Jeff’s Lake County Acoustic Music Jam. The Acoustic Stage runs from 11am-5pm.

The Gazebo Variety Stage will feature Waukegan High School students and alumni reading Ray Bradbury’s “The Whole Town’s Sleeping” at 1pm. Join the Community Drum Circle, a festival favorite, at 2pm. Participants may borrow a drum, percussion, or rhythm instrument or they can bring their own to play. The headliner of the Gazebo Variety Stage is ALATS Dance Group with their performance starting at 3:15pm. The Gazebo Variety Stage runs from 12-4pm.

Programs and events sponsored by the Waukegan Park District-Cultural Arts Division are provided in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency. For more information, please call the Waukegan Park District-Jack Benny Center for the Arts at 847-360-4740. The Jack Benny Center is located at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park.

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 full-time and over 230 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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